

The Sutton Strathspey

Set dance for 4 couples in a longwise set

4 x 32 Strathspey

The Sutton strathspey was devised for the Sutton Coldfield Scottish Country Dance Society, It has no particular music associated with it, but it was intended for dancing to any suitable 4x32 bar strathspey record.

Figure 1

Strathspey Petronella

- 1-2 1st and 3rd couples cast off one place on own sides, while 2nd and 4th couples dance a petronella turn.
- 3-4 All set.
- 5-8 All dance a petronella turn and set.
- 9-12 All dance a petronella turn and set.
- 13-14 2nd and 4th couples dance a petronella turn to places and face up, while 1st and 3rd couple cast up to own places, wrong sides, and face down. (1st and 3rd couples remain on wrong sides until the final petronella figure.)
- 15-16 All set.
- 17-20 Reels of four with crossing.
2nd and 4th couples dance up and outwards while 1st and 3rd couples cross down to dance half a reel on opposite sides (i.e. men on men's line, women on women's).
- 21-24 4th couple from top place and 2nd couple from 3rd place cross over and all dance half a reel on opposite sides.
- 25-28 1st and 3rd couples cross back to dance half a reel on own sides (i.e. men on women's line and women on men's).
- 29-32 4th and 2nd couples cross back and all dance half a reel on own sides.

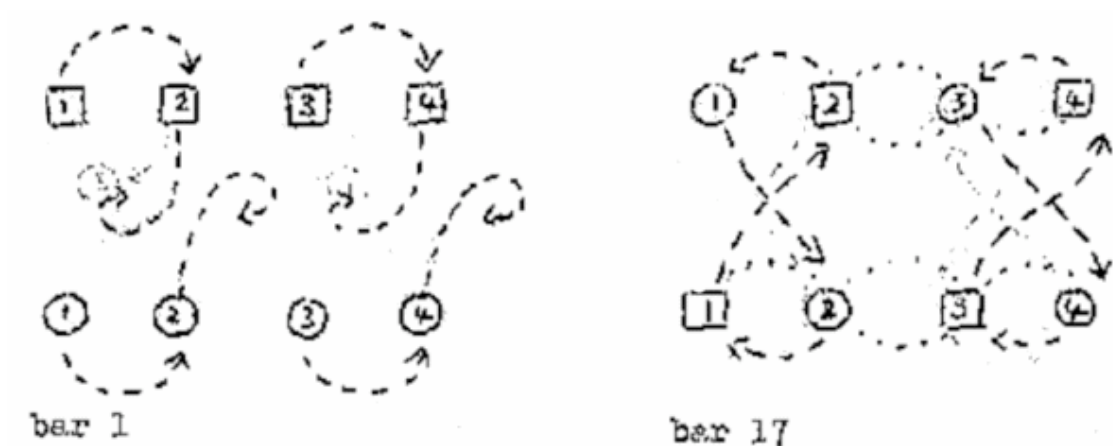


Figure 2

- 1-8 1st couple with 2nd, and 3rd couple with 4th, dance double figures of eight. To begin, 1st and 3rd couples cross down and 2nd and 4th couples dance up and outward. i.e all continue direction of reels. For figure to flow evenly, 1st and 3rd women and 2nd and 4th men must pass in front of partners when crossing. 1st and 3rd couples finish facing down near hands joined; 2nd and 4th couples after crossing for the second time, turn in towards partner and face up, near hands joined.
- 9-12 All set twice and
- 13-16 Turn opposite with both hands twice round, opening out to face partners across the set.
- 17-24 1st couple with 2nd, and 3rd couple with 4th, dance rights and lefts, beginning right hand to partner. Women finish with polite turn.

Strathspey Pousette

- 25 Women stand still, while men, continuing track from rights and lefts, dance in to finish back to back in diagonal lines, facing opposite women.
- 26 All dance out to side lines and make $\frac{1}{4}$ turn.
- 27 All dance into the middle and
- 28 Turn to reform diagonals with women back to back in the middle
- 29 All dance out to sidelines and make $\frac{1}{4}$ turn.
- 30 All dance into the middle and
- 31 Turn to reform diagonals again with men back to back in the middle..
- 32 Women stand still while men dance out to sidelines to face same women up and down the dance.

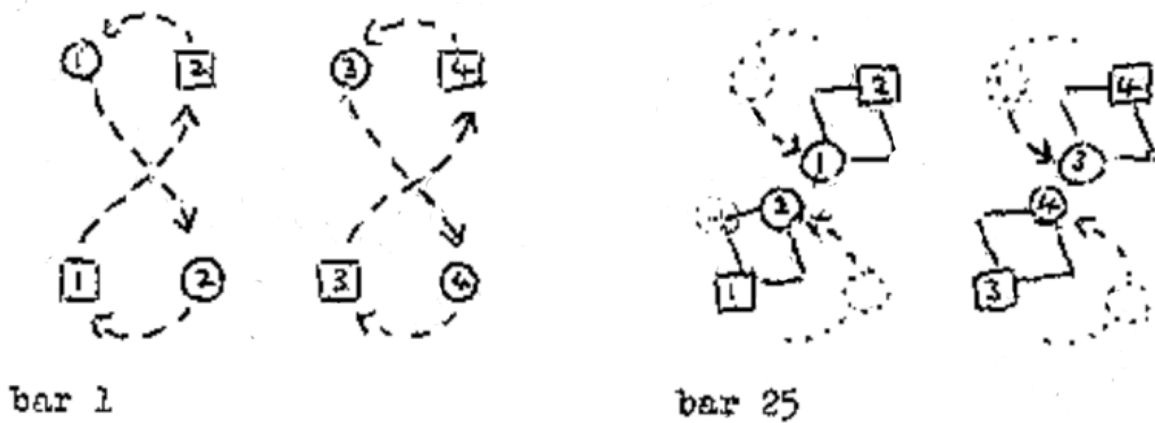
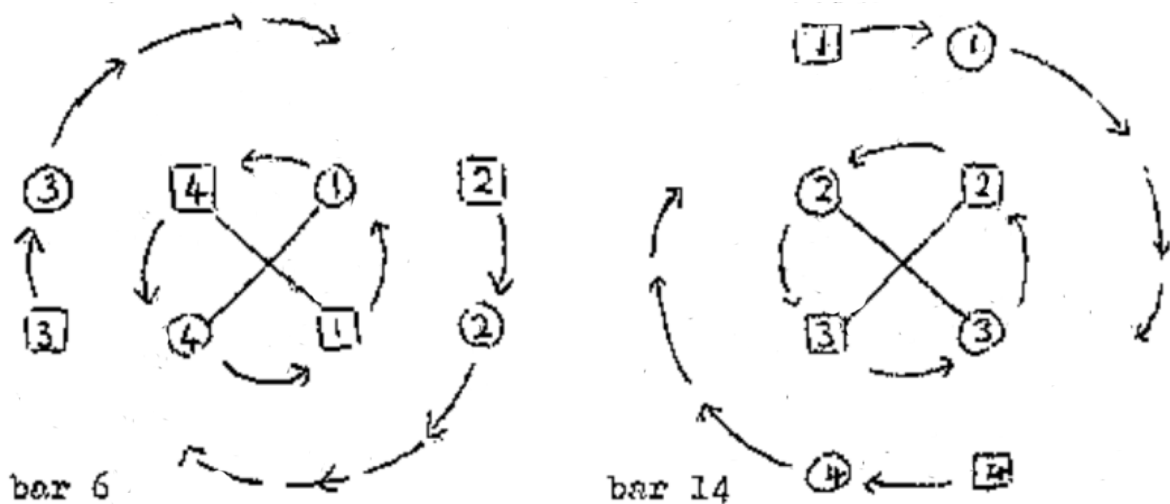


Figure 3

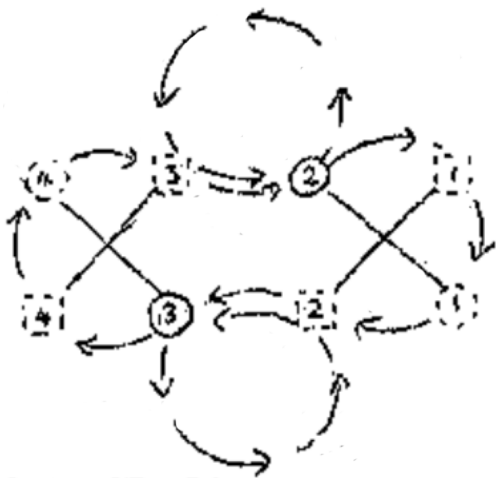
Rotating Reels

- 1-4 All dance half a reel of four on the sides, passing right at the ends to begin.
- 5 All dance one more change of the reel.
- 6-8 1st and 4th couples dance left hands across $\frac{3}{4}$ round, while 2nd and 3rd men, followed by their partners, dance clockwise $\frac{1}{4}$ round the others to form lines of 4 across the dance.
- 9-12 All dance half a reel of four across the dance, passing right at the ends to begin.
- 13 All dance one more change of the reel.
- 14-16 2nd and 3rd couples dance left hands across $\frac{3}{4}$ round; while 2nd and 4th men, followed by their partners, dance clockwise $\frac{1}{4}$ round the others to reform two lines of 4 up and down the dance; the set is now inverted.

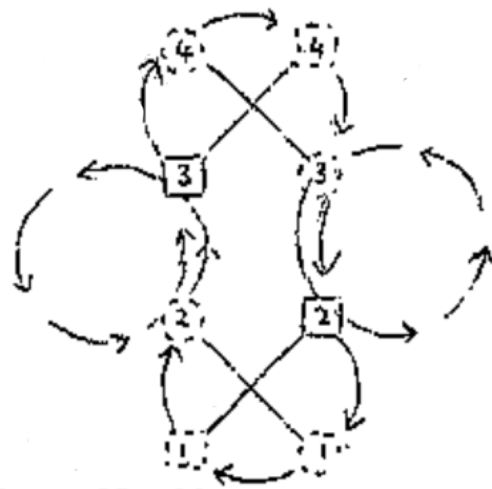


17-19 **Wandering Wheels.**

- 4th couple with 3rd, and 2nd couple with 1st, dance right hands across $\frac{3}{4}$ round.
- 20 3rd man leaves his wheel to dance down towards his own place (wrong side), 2nd man dances up towards his own place, while others continue right hands across.
- 21 3rd and 2nd men dance out to their own left; 3rd and 2nd women leave their wheels to follow partners, while others continue the track of right hands across.
- 22 4th man follows 3rd couple to make a left hand wheel with them, 1st man does the same with 2nd couple, while 4th and 1st women continue track of right hands across and then
- 23-24 Follow partners into the left hand wheels. At the end of bar 24, dancers are in two lines of four across the set.
- 25-27 1st couple with 2nd, and 3rd couple with 4th, dance right hands across $\frac{3}{4}$ round.
- 28 2nd and 3rd women leave their wheels and dance across the set towards their own places, while the others continue right hands across.
- 29 2nd and 3rd women leave their wheels to follow partners.
- 30 1st and 4th women follow 2nd and 3rd couples to make left hand wheels and them.
- 31-32 1st and 4th men follow partners into left hand wheels. At the end of bar 32 all are back in own places - 1st and 3rd couples still on wrong sides. In bars 17-32, hands are given whenever there are 3 or 4 dancers in the wheels.



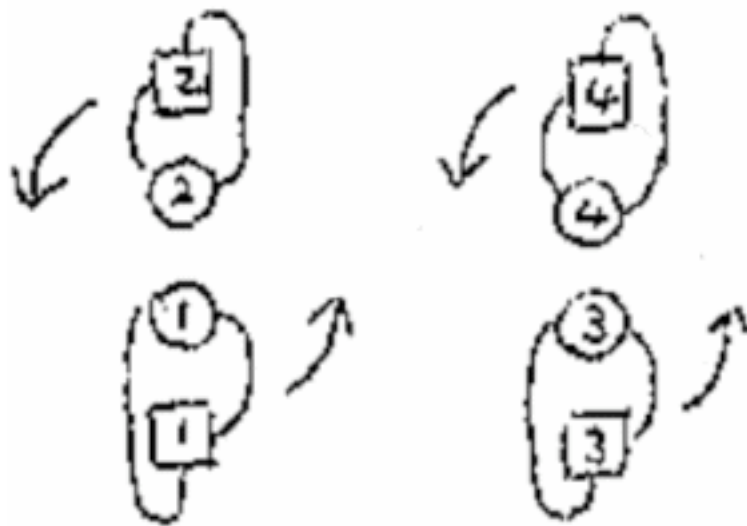
bars 17-24
tracks of 3rd and 2nd men



bars 25-32
tracks of 3rd & 2nd women

Figure 4

- 1-2 Joining hands on the sides in twos, all set to partners and
- 3-4 Turn them by the right hand once round to allemande hold, 1st and 3rd couples facing down, 2nd and 4th couples facing up.
- 5-8 All set twice in allemande hold; women stand slightly in front of their partners.
- 9 All dance forward by the right to form two lines of four across the dance, the men left shoulder to left shoulder in the middle.
- 10-12 All wheel round counter-clockwise, $\frac{1}{4}$ turn to each step so that at the end of bar 12 all are in one line down centre of dance.
- 13 Men, dancing back slightly, bring partners round under their arms to face them.
- 14 All dance back to side lines and
- 15-16 Joining hands on the side, set to partners.
- 17-18 **Strathspey Petronella.**
1st and 3rd couples cast off one place, while 2nd and 4th couples dance a petronella turn.
- 19-20 All set
- 21-24 All dance a petronella turn and set.
- 25-28 All dance a petronella turn and set.
- 29-30 1st and 3rd couples cast back to places while 2nd and 4th couples dance a petronella turn to places (all are now on own sides).
- 31-32 All set to partners.

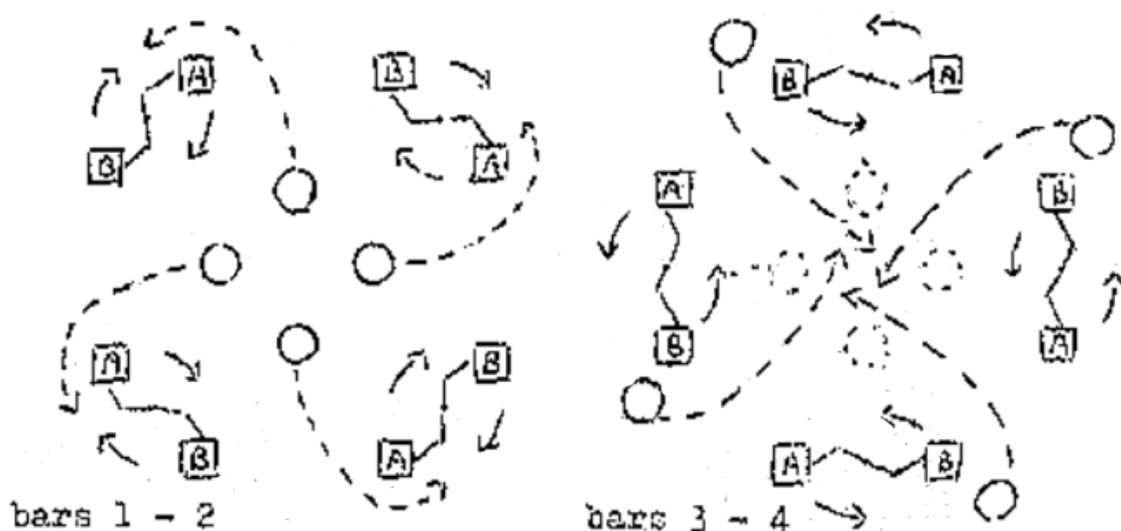


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Figure 2 Strathspey 32 bars

1-16 Women dance a grand chain, 2 steps to each hand, A women dancing c-clockwise, B women clockwise. On the last 2 bars A women pass their own B partners, left hand, and then join nearer hands with them to face centre.

At the same time, men dance out between their partners and turn to their left (while women are giving right hands), then dance back into the centre and dance $\frac{1}{4}$ right hand wheel without taking hands (while women are giving left hands). The men dance this loop three more times, each time dancing out behind own B partner as she is giving right hands. The finish with backs to the centre, facing partners.



17-18 All set.

19-20 All dance on one place clockwise round the sides of a triangle formed by the man and his two partners, using a petronella turn.

21-22 Men and B partners join nearer hands and set to A partners.

23-24 All dance on one place as before.

25-26 Men and A partners join nearer hands and set to B partners.

27-28 All dance on one place as before; men finish in a right hand wheel in the centre, B partners face A partners, who do not make a petronella turn.

29-32 The men dance right hands across once round, while the women turn each other $1\frac{1}{4}$ times by the right hand to form a cross. A partners being at the extremities of the cross.

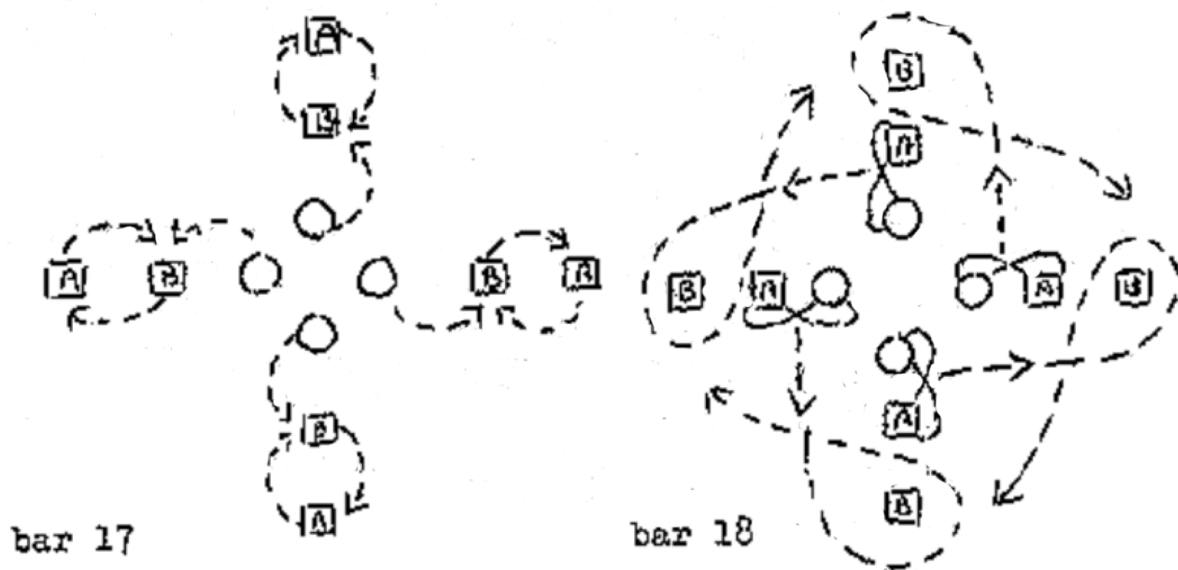
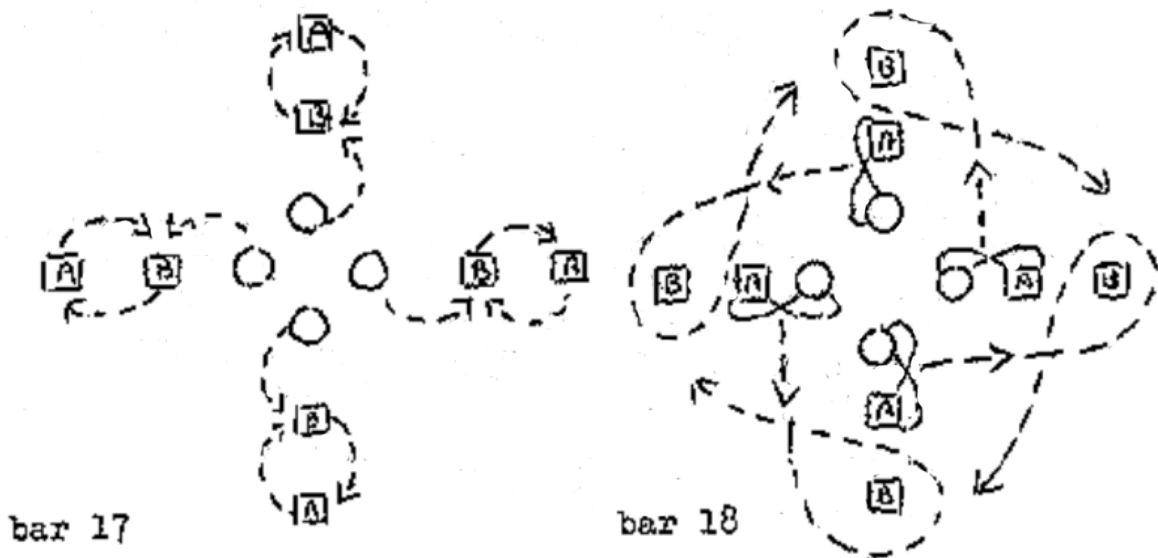


Figure 3 Reel 64 bars

- 1-16 All dance two reels of three taking 8 steps to each reel. Men begin the reels giving left shoulder to B partners, while A partners dance to own left. Each dancer on reaching the centre of the set dances out into the next reel clockwise round the set, dancing as if through $\frac{1}{4}$ right hand wheel in the centre but without joining hands. (B partners will change reels after dancing only two steps.) At the end of bar 16 all have danced half way round the cross.
- 17-24 Taking two steps, B partners turn to their right and dance back to extremities of the cross, while men and A partners, continuing direction of reel, meet and, taking promenade hold, dance behind the next B woman counter-clockwise round the set, dance in front of her and out behind own B partner, who turns right about to meet the man.
- 25-32 Men leave A partners in own places at extremities of the cross and pick up B partners in promenade hold. They dance in front of next A woman clockwise round the set, round behind her and back towards man's place. As they approach the centre, the men bring the women across in front of them, then, releasing right hands, they make a wide left hand turn half way round to reform cross.



33-64 Repeat bars 1-32, except that on the last two bars, A partners move forward to the right and B partners finish their left hand turn level with them so that each man and his two partners form a triangle.

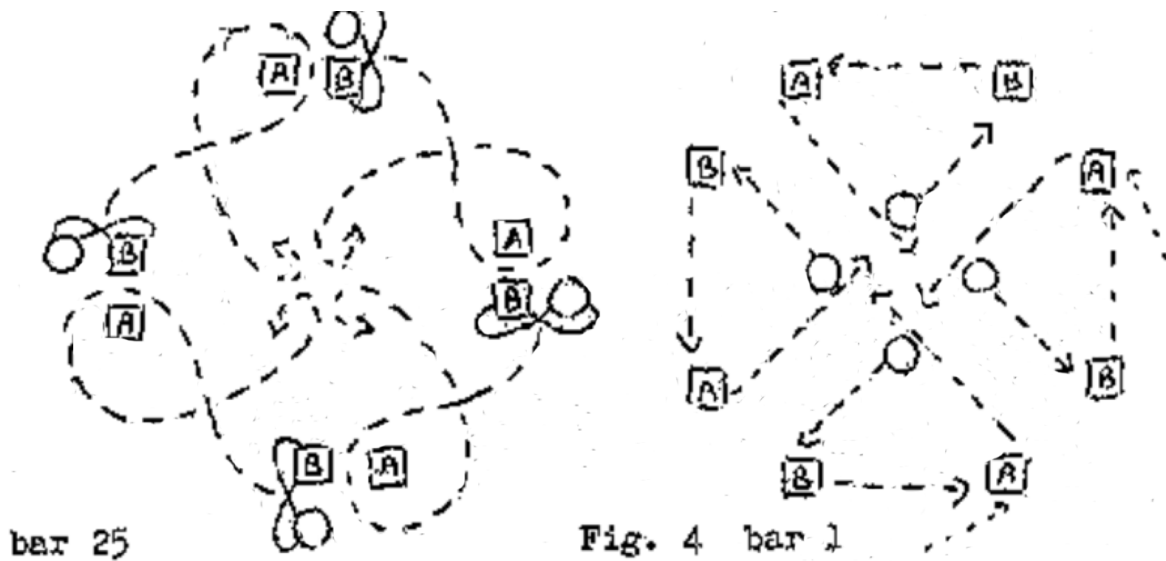


Figure 4 Reel 32 bars

- 1-12 All dance a four-leaved clover reel for twelve to half way places; each change of place takes two steps; each dancer on reaching the centre of the set momentarily joins a right hand wheel (taking hands) before dancing out in the next lobe of the reel clockwise round the set.
- 13-16 Each man with his two partners dance left hands across; A partners finish by dancing across in front of men towards centre; then changing to nearer hands, dancers finish in lines of three facing counter-clockwise round the set.

17-18 All dance one quarter of the way round and

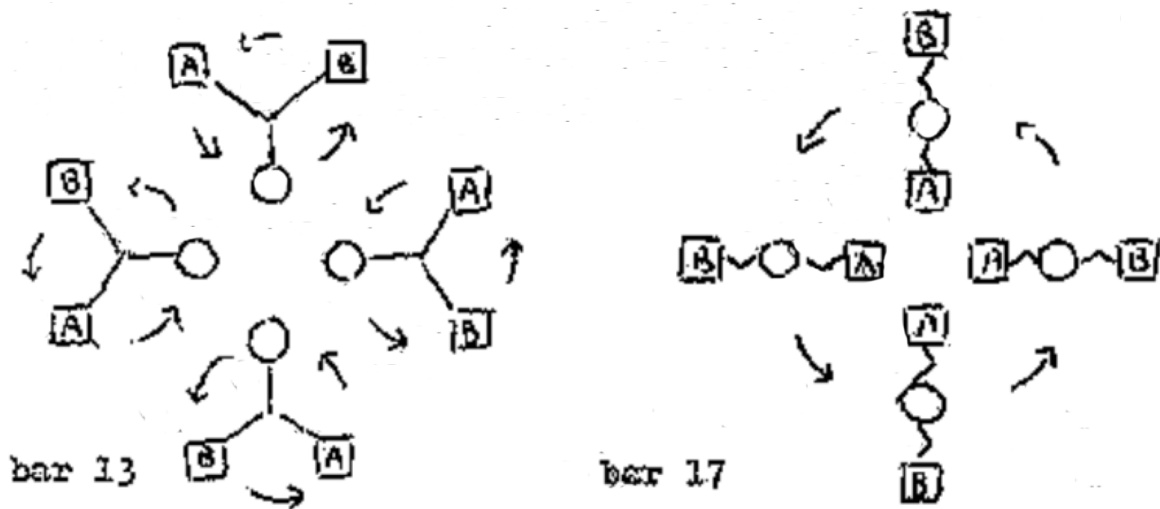
19-20 Set.

21-24 Repeat bars 17-20.

25-32 All promenade once round the set, breaking from the cross formation on the last two bars to return to square formation.

Retain hand for the bow and curtsey, men standing a little behind partners.

If desired, the last eight bars may be used to promenade off in threes.



The Celtic Cross was devised as a demonstration dance for my Erdington Evening Institute Class, where men were outnumbered by two to one. As first performed, Figure 3 was only 32 bars long, i.e. danced only to half way places, and in this form the Celtic Cross can be danced to records intended the foursome reel.

- Figure 1 North Bridge of Edinburgh (Balmoral p.25)
- Figure 2 Miss Lyall (Kerr's Collection p. 15)
- Figure 3 Lady Mary Stopford (Scottish C.D. Music p. 16)
- Figure 4 Cutty Sark (Kerr's Collection p. 14)